

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Next week, the House Subcommittee on Water and Power will hold a field hearing on the federal government's response to the California drought. Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) and Valley Representatives Dennis Cardoza (D-Merced), George Radanovich (R-Mariposa), Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) and Devin Nunes (R-Tulare) requested this hearing last month to ensure the federal government is informed about the drought and its impact on the people who live and work in the Valley. Costa is a member of the Subcommittee and will attend the field hearing.

“The drought is having a dramatic impact on our crops, and, as a result, on farmers and farm workers and the overall economy of the Valley,” said Costa. “We need to find both short-term and long-term solutions to this problem, and it is my hope that this hearing can help us do that.”

Last month, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency in the nine Valley counties due to two years of below-average rainfall, very low snowmelt runoff, and court-ordered restrictions on water transfers. The Governor's drought designation came after the driest spring on record and an announcement by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation that they would be further reducing Central Valley Project water deliveries to agricultural users south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Fresno Mayor Alan Autry will welcome the Subcommittee and give an introductory statement.

The following individuals will testify before the Subcommittee:

### Panel 1

The Honorable Phil Larson, Fresno County Supervisor, Fresno, California  
The Honorable Robert Silva, Mayor, City of Mendota, Mendota, California  
Mr. Roger Palomino, Economic Opportunities Commission & Drought Relief Strategies Group, Fresno, California, accompanied by Mr. Carlos Ramirez, Farm Worker  
Mr. Cort Blackburn, Farmer, Firebaugh, California  
Mr. Kole Upton, East Central Valley Resident, Chowchilla, California

### Panel 2

Mr. Dan Nelson, Executive Director, San Luis- Delta Mendota Water Authority, Los Banos, California

Mr. Tom Birmingham, General Manager, Westlands Water District, Fresno, California

Mr. Ron Jacobsma, General Manager, Friant Water Authority, Lindsay, California

Philip Duffy, PhD, Chemistry, Materials, and Life Sciences Directorate, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, California

### Panel 3

Mr. Don Glaser, Mid-Pacific Regional Director, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Sacramento, California accompanied by Ms. Claudia C. Faunt, Ph.D., P.E., Hydrologist U.S. Geological Survey California Water Science Center

Mr. John Smythe, Farm Services Agency State Executive Director, U.S. Department of Agriculture, California, accompanied by Mr. Jim Otto, Senior Risk Management Specialist, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Davis, California

Mr. Lester Snow, Director, California Department of Water Resources, Sacramento, California

WHO: House Subcommittee on Water and Power

WHAT: Field Hearing on California's Drought

WHEN: Monday, July 21st, 2008 at 10:00am

WHERE: Fresno City Council Chambers  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721